

CLAIMS

1. A method of preventing parturient hypocalcemia in an animal, comprising a administering to the animal during at least part of the dry period an effective amount of at least one compound which reduces absorption of calcium from the drinking water and/or from the ration of said animal.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is administered perorally.
3. The method according to claim 1, comprising administering to the animal during at least part of the dry period an effective amount of a calcium-binding compound.
4. The method according to claim 3 wherein the calcium-binding compound is selected from the group consisting of oxalic acid, sodium oxalate, phytic acid, a phytate, a clay mineral including zeolite, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and its sodium salts Na_2EDTA and Na_4EDTA , trisodium nitrilotriacetate monohydrate, trisodium nitriloacetate, pentasodium diethylenetriaminepentaacetate, trisodium N-hydroxyethylethylene-diaminetriacetate, citric acid, a citrate, a polyphosphate, a tripolyphosphate, an orthophosphate and a cellulose phosphate and a calcium-free derivative of any such compounds.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the calcium-binding compound is selected from the group consisting of zeolites, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and its sodium salts Na_2EDTA and Na_4EDTA , a polyphosphate, a tripolyphosphate, an orthophosphate and a cellulose phosphate and a calcium-free derivative of any such compounds.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the calcium-binding compound is selected from the group consisting of syntectic sodium aluminosilicate zeolite A type and a calcium-free derivative of any such compounds.
7. The method according to claim 1, comprising administering to the animal during at least part of the dry period an effective amount of a compound which has a com-

petitive effect on the absorption of calcium from the drinking water and/or from the ration of said animal.

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8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the compound is a zinc compound selected from zinc oxide, zinc chloride and zinc sulfate.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the compound is in an encapsulated form.

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10. The method according to claim 1 wherein the compound is contained in a composition which is in the form of a premix, a liquid and a powder.

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11. The method according to claim 10 wherein the composition is added to the drinking water and/or to the ration of the dry animal.

12. The method according to claim 2, wherein at least 10 g of the compound is administered to the animal daily.

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13. The method according to claim 12, wherein at least 50 g of the compound is administered daily.

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14. A composition for preventing parturient hypocalcemia in an animal, comprising, in a suitable form for peroral administration, at least one compound which reduces the absorption of calcium from the drinking water and/or from the ration of said animal.

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15. The composition according to claim 14, wherein the compound is in encapsulated form.

16. The composition according to claim 14, wherein the compound is a calcium-binding compound.

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17. The composition according to claim 16, wherein the calcium-binding compound is selected from the group consisting of oxalic acid, sodium oxalate, phytic acid, a phytate, a clay mineral including zeolite, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA)

and its sodium salts Na_2EDTA and Na_4EDTA , trisodium nitrilotriacetate monohydrate, trisodium nitriloacetate, pentasodium diethylenetriaminepentaacetate, trisodium N-hydroxyethyl-ethylenediaminetriacetate, citric acid, a citrate, a polyphosphate, a tripolyphosphate, an orthophosphate and a cellulose phosphate and a calcium-free derivative of any such compounds.

18. The composition according to claim 17, wherein the calcium-binding compound is selected from the group consisting of a clay mineral selected from zeolite, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and its sodium salts Na_2EDTA and Na_4EDTA , a polyphosphate, a tripolyphosphate, an orthophosphate and a cellulose phosphate and a calcium-free derivative of any such compounds.

19. The composition according to claim 18, wherein the calcium-binding compound is selected from the group consisting of a clay mineral selected from zeolite and a calcium-free derivative of any such compounds.

20. The composition according to claim 8 wherein the compound has a competitive effect on the absorption of calcium from drinking water and/or from the ration of the animal.

21. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the compound is a zinc compound selected from zinc oxide, zinc chloride and zinc sulfate.

22. The composition according to claim 21, wherein the zinc compound is encapsulated.

23. The composition according to claim 14 or 22 where the compound is encapsulated by a compound selected from the group consisting of a fat, a non-calcium derivative of a fat such as a soap and a stearate, a protein, a polysaccharide, a cellulose, a gum, a glycol, gelatine and a derivative of any such compound.

24. The composition according to claim 14 or 22 where the compound is encapsulated by a calcium-free membrane material, which at the body temperature of the lactating animal is solid at a pH value above 4.0 but which dissolves at pH below 4.0.

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